

## ARPA Broadband Infrastructure

 [Invite Collaborators](#)

### Background Information

Montana is committed to fulfill the purpose of the American Rescue Plan Act's directive for the expansion of broadband Internet access to Montana's regions and locals that remain unserved or underserved. The Department of Administration (DOA) has established the ConnectMT ("Program") under the "Connect Montana Act", SB 297 to oversee the operation of the award allocations process. To review more information about the application, scoring and challenge processes, please go to <https://connectmt.mt.gov/>.

As designated by the ARPA financial allocation to the State of Montana, the state will receive \$275 million to be allocated via competitive allocation awards to applicants who commit at a minimum 20% of the proposed projects funds cost and who also commit to deploying enhanced and improved internet communications in Montana. Such funding authority is pursuant to section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, H.R. 1319, Public Law No.117-2; furthermore it is pursuant to Montana's 67th Legislature HB 632.<sup>[1]</sup> Implementing the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA); also pursuant to Montana's 67th Legislature SB 297, signed May 11, 2021 establishing Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Laws and establishing the Montana Broadband Deployment Program, signed May 11, 2021, herein referred to as the "Connect Montana Act".<sup>[2]</sup>

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA-21) was signed into law by the President.<sup>[3]</sup> Section 9901 of ARPA-21 amended Title VI of the Social Security Act<sup>[4]</sup> (the Act) to add section 602, which establishes the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund, and section 603, which establishes the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (together, the Fiscal Recovery Funds).<sup>[5]</sup> Under the U.S. Treasury's Interim Final Rule (IFR), 31 CFR Part 35, the Secretary of the Treasury (Treasury) issued its Interim Final Rule to implement the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund established under the ARPA-21. In addition, on September 20, 2021, the U.S. Treasury issued its guide for Section 604 of ARPA-21.<sup>[6]</sup>

**Eligible Applicants** - Eligible applicants for this program are considered to be incorporated business or partnership, a political subdivision, an Indian tribe, a Montana nonprofit organization, limited liability company, incorporation, cooperative entity, organized for the purpose of expanding broadband access.

<sup>[1]</sup> 67th Montana Legislature, House Bill 632, signed into law, May 11, 2021.

<sup>[2]</sup> 67th Montana Legislature, "Connect Montana Act", Senate Bill 297, signed into law, May 11, 2021.

<sup>[3]</sup> American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) § 9901, Pub. L. No. 117-2, codified at 42 U.S.C. § 802 et seq.

<sup>[4]</sup> 42 U.S.C. 801 et seq.

<sup>[5]</sup> §§ 602, 603 of the Act.

<sup>[6]</sup> "Guidance for the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund For States, Territories & Freely Associated States U.S. Department of the Treasury." 9/20/2021, (Treasury § 604 Capital Projects Fund Guidance).

**Mobile Users:** Please note file uploads may not work on all mobile devices. We recommend using the [Chrome \[salesloft.submittable.com\]](#) or [Firefox \[salesloft.submittable.com\]](#) browser, if possible. Please note that certain elements of our platform – including file uploads – may not run as efficiently on [Explorer, or older versions of Edge \[salesloft.submittable.com\]](#). Need help downloading Chrome or Firefox? Here are some links to help: [google.com \[google.com\]](#) [Google Chrome - Download the Fast, Secure Browser from Google\(opens in new tab\) \[salesloft.submittable.com\]](#) [Mozilla Download the fastest Firefox ever\(opens in new tab\) \[salesloft.submittable.com\]](#) Please note that it will not be possible to edit your application once it's submitted; to make changes you'll need to withdraw your application and resubmit. We encourage you to take your time and fill out the application completely and accurately and review before submitting.

## Notice of Application Guidance

Before completing your application, please review the [Application Guidance].

Responsive proposers are hereby notified that all proposals are ultimately subject to the review and approval of the Communications Advisory Commission, authorized by House Bill 632<sup>[1]</sup>Section 3 and the project requirements and guidelines of Senate Bill 297,<sup>[2]</sup> before the governor's final approval.

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[1] Montana's 67th Legislature passed House Bill 632, Implementing the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA-21) and establishing the "Communications Advisory Commission" and signed into law May 11, 2021.

[2]Montana's 67th Legislature passed Senate Bill 297, "Connect Montana Act" establishing Montana's Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Laws and Montana Broadband Deployment Program Act, signed into law May 11, 2021.

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## Notice of Right to Challenge

- Entities have the right to challenge proposed projects. Use the following link to submit a challenge: [Broadband Infrastructure Challenge Application](#)

To allow multiple people to collaborate on this application, click [here](#) for more information.

## Funds Distribution Method

- Funds will be distributed via EFT - Should funding be awarded for the proposed project, all allocation funds are disbursed via ACH.

## Application Checklist

The Broadband Infrastructure application will require at a minimum the following documents:

- ☐ Applicant affidavit upload
- ☐ Budgeting engineering designs, diagrams, and maps that demonstrate the viability of the proposal project with certification stamps
- ☐ Certification from manufacturer or professional engineer of equipment to be utilized
- ☐ Certification of professional engineer
- ☐ Documentation showing project served unserved or underserved areas

- ☐ Documentation showing that applicant will offer broadband service for a minimum of 5 years
- ☐ Demonstration that installed broadband infrastructure is scalable to speeds of at least 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload
- ☐ Evidence of community support for project
- ☐ Executive summary
- ☐ Historical, unqualified CPA compiled, reviewed, or audited financial statements
- ☐ Itemized approvals that will be required prior to project construction with corresponding entity that will provide approval
- ☐ Lease agreements
- ☐ List of eligible elements to be purchased or utilized
- ☐ Map of complete project area and list of addresses served
- ☐ Notarized documentation of application review
- ☐ Organizational support evidence
- ☐ Project budget
- ☐ Project financials
- ☐ Project schedule
- ☐ Proof of good standing with Montana Secretary of State
- ☐ Secured funds documentation
- ☐ Source of funding summary
- ☐ Total number of passings spreadsheet
- ☐ Use of funds spreadsheet
- ☐ Validation of availability of matching funds

This field is for the applicant's reference only.

## Broadband Application

### Part I - Project Background Information

Project Name \*

Applicant Organization Name \*

Limit: 250 characters

## Applicant Organization's Mailing Address \*

Country

Select...

Address

Address Line 2 (optional)

City

State, Province, or Region

Zip or Postal Code

## Historical Financial Statements

1) Provide historical, unqualified CPA compiled, reviewed, or audited financial statements for the applicant organization.

2) Confidential - Yes/No - DO YOU CONSIDER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONFIDENTIAL?

- YES - The following question will dictate how these documents are provided. If confidential, answer "Yes" below and follow the link to provide these documents through a secure portal along with any other required information that is considered confidential.
- NO - Answer "No" to the question below and upload the required financial statements.

Financial statements shall include: balance sheets, income statements, and statements of cash flow, or equivalent forms based on the type of organization. Provide 3 years of unqualified CPA compiled, reviewed, or audited historical financial statements or 2 years of unqualified CPA compiled, reviewed, or audited comparative historical financial statements. Demonstrate the overall financial viability of the Applicant by providing the 3 most recent years of unqualified CPA compiled, reviewed, or audited financial statements. The financial statements may be identified and filed as "Confidential Information" and must be appropriately marked as confidential when submitted. Any confidential information should be identified as a separate file. Results from an independent audit may also be provided as supplemental detail, as well as the Applicant's most recent year's federal tax return. If provided these documents should also be submitted and marked as confidential. Supplemental material that may be provided as documentation for this requirement include the following:

- An Applicant that has been designated as an ETC by the Montana Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) may submit the copy of the MPUC Order authorizing the ETC status
- An Applicant that is a borrower in good standing with the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) may submit documentation that supports that designation.
- An Applicant that has a current Montana cable franchise agreement for the proposed communities in the project may submit a list of the communities covered by the franchise with the date of the franchise's most recent agreement or renewal

Do you have any documents considered trade secrets or confidential for this application? \*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

This question requires the response of the Authorized Organization Official.



## IF CONFIDENTIALITY – ANSWERED YES:

Do you have any documents considered trade secrets or confidential for this application? \*

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

This question requires the response of the Authorized Organization Official.

### Confidential Documents Website

- Send Files Here: [File Transfer Service Link](#).
- Submit any required documents for this application, financials, etc your organization considers confidential / trade secrets.
- Instructions: <https://app.mt.gov/epass-idp/portal/instruct.html>
- If you have issues with File Transfer upload/send - Call (406) 444-2000

## IF CONFIDENTIALITY – ANSWERED NO:

Do you have any documents considered trade secrets or confidential for this application? \*

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

This question requires the response of the Authorized Organization Official.

### Financial Documents Upload \*

Choose File

Select up to 70 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 70 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

Upload financial documents. Provide historical, unqualified CPA compiled, reviewed, or audited financial statements.

### Organizational Support Evidence

Demonstrate the overall organization strength of the Applicant to build, manage, and effectively operate the proposed broadband project, if approved.

Documentation should identify key officers and management personnel with corresponding brief resumes. Organizational structure charts may also be submitted. It is important to provide a detailed description of how organizational strength pertains to level of broadband service delivery and service maintenance.

### Organizational support evidence upload \*

Choose File

Select up to 70 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 70 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

Insert examples: articles of organization, etc.

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Insert examples: articles of organization, etc.

## Proof of Good Standing with the Montana Secretary of State

For the section below, please visit <https://sosmt.gov/business/> and take a screen shot or download a pdf that reflects the business is registered and in good standing with the State of Montana. If you are not required to be registered with the Montana Secretary of State or if this is not applicable to your business, please describe below.

### Proof of good standing with the Montana Secretary of State upload \*

Choose File

Upload a file. No files have been attached yet.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

If not required to register with Montana Secretary of State, please describe why.

## Executive Summary Instructions

Provide a brief executive summary narrative that incorporates a concise but comprehensive allocation rationale for official reviewers of the overall project proposal that accomplishes the following:

- Brief summary of project (first paragraph)
- Brief narrative description of the geography and location of the project coverage, include the proposed broadband passings and speed improvements anticipated in the event of project funding
- Briefly describe the deployment/ implementation/ and installation technology intended to be used and methodology to fulfill and complete the intended project
- Brief description of the applicant's prior involvement in broadband technology implementation and how the applicant (and/or partners) intend to manage and sustain the project

Describe the project location, type of project construction, number of passings served and speed goals met or exceeded. Identify any project partners for the project. Provide an economic development/community impact rationale for the project. The following is a sample paragraph template to illustrate a response to this request. Please provide unique details from the proposed project to populate this response.

Limit summary to 3 pages, single spaced.

## Executive Summary Upload \*

Choose File

Upload a file. No files have been attached yet.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpl, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

## Applicant Letter of Intent \*

Choose File

Upload a file. No files have been attached yet.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpl, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

## Applicant Insurance Information

### Insurance Information Upload \*

Choose File

Select up to 10 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 10 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpl, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

Include procession by the project leader, proposer of general liability of the vocation/business, and insurance that could be a bond form for the intended project that covers incidents of performance.

Key Contacts

Authorized Organization Official Name \*

First Name

Last Name

Authorized Organization Official Phone Number \*



Authorized Organization Official Title \*

Authorized Organization Official Email Address \*

Primary Contact Name \*

First Name

Last Name

This will be the primary contact for negotiation and execution of the allocation contract if the project is awarded funding.

Primary Contact Title \*

Limit: 250 characters



**Primary Contact Email Address \***

email@example.com

**Primary Contact Telephone Number \***



**Primary Contact Corporate Entity Role \***

Limit: 250 characters

Example: officer, shareholder, etc.

**Applicant's Financial Contact Person Name \***

First Name

Last Name

**Applicant's Financial Contact Person Telephone Number: \***



**Applicant's Financial Contact Person Email Address: \***

**Federal Employer Identification Number: \***

SSN/EIN Example: 123456789

A federal Employer Identification Number (EIN) is also known as a federal tax identification number and is used for tax filing purposes. Enter 9 digit number only - no dashes.

**State of Montana Vendor Number: \***

If you do not already have a State of Montana vendor number, you can register for a state vendor ID. State of Montana vendor registration number instructions and information may be found at the following link: [Vendor Registration Portal](#)

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Which of the following will be involved in the creation of this application? \*

- ☒ Project Manager
- ☒ Application Author
- ☒ Other

Select all that apply.

**Project Manager Name \***

First Name

Last Name

This individual will be the primary contact for administration of the award if the project is funded.

**Project Manager Title \***

**Project Manager Telephone Number \***



**Project Manager Email Address \***

**Application Author Name \***

First Name

Last Name

This individual will be the primary contact for any questions regarding the allocation application document and supporting documentation.

Application Author Title \*

Application Author Telephone Number \*



Application Author Email Address \*

Other Person Name \*

First Name

Last Name

Other Person Title \*

Other Person Telephone Number \*



Other Person Email Address \*

MATCHING FUNDS – IF ANSWERED “YES”:

Does this proposed project include matching funds from partners? \*

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

Contact Information of Funding Partner(s)

Provide complete contact information for each application funding partner including name, telephone number, and email address.

Partner 1 Name \*

Partner 1 Phone Number \*



Partner 1 Email Address \*

Partner 2 Name

Partner 2 Phone Number



Partner 2 Email Address

**Partner 3 Name**

**Partner 3 Phone Number**



**Partner 3 Email Address**

**Notarized Documentation of Application Review Upload \***

Choose File

Select up to 10 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 10 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

The Applicant and all matching fund partners must provide notarized documentation stating each has reviewed the application, confirm their commitment to the project, and provide proof of the existence of matching and secured funds. Failure to do may result in disqualification.

**Funding Commitment provided by Each Partner \***

Limit: 1500 characters

Describe if proposal is a joint venture of more than one entity; provide all identifying information consistent with the requirements of this allocation offering.



## Verification of Montana Certified Professional Engineer

[Certified Professional Engineer Link.](#)

### Name of Montana Certified Professional Engineer working on project \*

First Name

Last Name

### Provide PE license number \*

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### Provide PE license number \*

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### Part II - Project Location Information

#### Project Location \*

Limit: 250 characters

Provide descriptively the geographical area of the proposed project.

County Served by Project (select all that apply) \*

- ☐ BEAVERHEAD
- ☐ BIG HORN
- ☐ BLAINE
- ☐ BROADWATER
- ☐ CARBON
- ☐ CARTER
- ☐ CASCADE
- ☐ CHOUTEAU
- ☐ CUSTER
- ☐ DANIELS
- ☐ DAWSON
- ☐ DEER LODGE
- ☐ FALLON
- ☐ FERGUS
- ☐ FLATHEAD
- 
- ☐ GALLATIN
- ☐ GARFIELD
- ☐ GLACIER
- ☐ GOLDEN VALLEY
- ☐ GRANITE
- ☐ HILL
- ☐ JEFFERSON
- ☐ JUDITH BASIN
- 
- ☐ LAKE
- ☐ LEWIS AND CLARK
- ☐ LIBERTY
- ☐ LINCOLN
- ☐ MADISON
- ☐ MCCONE
- ☐ MEAGHER
- ☐ MINERAL
- ☐ MISSOULA
- ☐ MUSSELSHELL
- ☐ PARK
- ☐ PETROLEUM
- ☐ PHILLIPS
- ☐ PONDERA
- ☐ POWDER RIVER
- ☐ POWELL
- ☐ PRAIRIE
- ☐ RAVALLI
- ☐ RICHLAND

- ☐ ROOSEVELT
- ☐ ROSEBUD
- ☐ SANDERS
- ☐ SHERIDAN
- ☐ SILVER BOW
- ☐ STILLWATER
- ☐ SWEET GRASS
- ☐ TETON
- ☐ TOOLE
- ☐ TREASURE
- ☐ VALLEY
- ☐ WHEATLAND
- ☐ WIBAUX
- ☐ YELLOWSTONE

Describe the extent that a county will be covered by the proposed broadband project.

**List Community/Communities Served by Project \***

Limit: 1500 characters

Describe and provide known population figures intended to be served by the projected proposed project.

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## Map and Description of Project Area

Provide a map of the proposed project area and a complete list of addresses that will be served by the project.

### Map Upload \*

Choose File

Select up to 5 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 5 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

- If providing a GIS shapefile(s), please zip all the files (at a minimum, you MUST include files with the .shp, .shx, and .dbf file extensions) and upload as a zip file.

### List of Addresses Upload \*

Choose File

Select up to 5 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 5 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

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### Part III - Project Funding Information

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#### Project Funding

##### Allocation Request Amount \*

\$  USD

Round to nearest dollar.

##### Allocation Request as a Percent of Total Project Cost \*

%

Enter in the form of a percentage. Do not enter % symbol. System will automatically add the symbol after the data is saved.

##### Matching Funds Provided by Applicant \*

\$  USD

Round to nearest dollar.

##### Matching Funds as a Percent of Total Project Cost \*

%

##### Is the total matching funds provided by the entity at least 20% of the proposed project cost? \*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

##### Total Project Cost \*

\$  USD

Round to nearest dollar.



What percentage of the total eligible project cost does the Applicant's matching funds represent? \*

%

Matching Fund Commitment by Partner

Download the [Matching Funds by Partner] document, fill in the necessary fields, and upload below. Refer to the [Application Guidance] below.

Matching Funds by Partner Upload \*

Choose File

Select up to 10 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 10 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

Validation of Availability of Matching Funds Upload \*

Choose File

Select up to 10 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 10 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

Documentation to validate the availability of matching funds is required as part of the allocation application.

Secured Funds Documentation Upload \*

Choose File

Select up to 10 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 10 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

Examples of secured funds documentation is defined in the "Matching Funds Account" section of this allocation application on page 5, and includes a letter of credit, bank letter confirming available funds, board resolution committing funds, or loan documentation.

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## Applicant Eligibility

Identify the specific category of Applicant eligibility for this proposed project under Montana law from the statutory options below: \*

Select...



Incorporated business or partnership

Political subdivision

Indian tribe

Montana nonprofit organization

Montana cooperative association

Montana limited liability corporation

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## Part IV - Broadband Improvements

### Anticipated Broadband Improvements

#### Total Number of Proposed Last Mile Connections \*

Choose File

Select up to 5 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 5 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .tif, .txt, .wpd, .wpf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

[Proposed Last Mile Connections Template](#)

**Application Includes: \***

- ☐ Last Mile Components Only
- ☐ Middle Mile Components Only
- ☒ Both Last Mile and Middle Mile Components

**Type of Proposed Broadband Construction \***

Select... 

**Names of All Other Broadband Service Providers Serving this Application Area: \***

Limit: 250 characters

Provide information as to the known coverage percentage provided by each in the area addressed by the proposed project.

**Identify the speeds currently available for each type of location, using the ranges provided on the table in the Application Guidance, and the improved speeds that will be offered if the project is awarded allocation funding: \***


Limit: 1500 characters

Refer to the [Application Guidance] for more information.

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**Unserved and Underserved Documentation**

**Unserved and Underserved Documentation Upload \***



Select up to 74 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 74 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpl, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

Refer to the [Application Guidance] to complete this portion of the application.

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## Part V - Community Participation

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### Provide Evidence of Community Support for Project \*

Choose File

Select up to 70 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 70 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

Examples include letters endorsing the project and describing the need for broadband improvements from residents, businesses, legislators, congressional representatives, etc.

## Part VI - Project Readiness

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### Use of Funds

Please use the following [Use of Funds] document for this portion for the application.

Ineligible expenses include:

- Expense prior to award contract execution. The broadband allocation program cannot provide reimbursement for any expenses incurred prior to the date that the allocation contract is executed. Any such expenses may not be included as allocation eligible expenses.
- Video or voice services
- Advertising
- General operations
- Nonbroadband related liabilities of the applicant
- Marketing activities

Recommended minimum budget categories for "Use of Funds" table above are as follows: [Applicant may add other budget categories as needed]

- Construction – Labor – Last Mile
- Construction – Labor – Middle Mile
- Construction - Materials
- Electronics
- Customer Premise Installation – Labor
- Customer Premise – Equipment
- Professional services and engineering

### Use of Funds Upload \*

Choose File

Upload a file. No files have been attached yet.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

### List of Eligible Elements to be Purchased or Utilized

Provide a list or schedule of all allocation eligible elements to be purchased or utilized for the proposed project.

### List of Eligible Elements to be Purchased or Utilized Upload \*

Choose File

Select up to 74 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 74 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

Will additional costs related to this proposed project that are not eligible costs be incurred in order to deploy broadband to this area? \*

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

If yes, identify and list all ineligible costs associated with the proposed project that may be incurred. \*

Limit: 1500 characters



Please provide all budgetary engineering designs, diagrams, and maps that demonstrate the viability of the proposed project with certification stamps. \*

Choose File

Select up to 74 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 74 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpl, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff

Design documents must clearly document the Applicant's comprehensive understanding of the project requirements. This information must be certified by a registered Professional Engineer.

Demonstrate that the installed broadband infrastructure is scalable to speeds of at least 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload. \*

Choose File

Select up to 74 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 74 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpl, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff

This information must be certified by either the manufacturer of the equipment to be utilized, or by a registered Professional Engineer.

Certification from manufacturer or registered Professional Engineer of equipment to be utilized. \*

Choose File

Upload a file. No files have been attached yet.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpl, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

## Project Construction Permits and Approvals

Have all required municipal/city/township/county/state approvals necessary for this project to begin construction from area planning commission/zoning authority/road authority/railroad crossing entity, etc. been identified and included in the project schedule? \*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Itemize and upload the approvals that will be required prior to project construction with the corresponding entity that will provide approval. \*

Choose File

Select up to 74 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 74 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpl, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

Provide a brief description of the process required to obtain approval. \*

IF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW ANSWER IS "YES":

Have all state environmental review requirements necessary for this project to begin construction been identified, if applicable? \*

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

If yes, describe the process to obtain required approvals. If applicable, include this process in the Project Schedule. \*

Environmental permits upload \*

Choose File

Select up to 10 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 10 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpl, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

NEPA Reviews Upload

Choose File

Upload a file. No files have been attached yet.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpl, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

IF ARCHETECTURAL / ARCHEOLOGICAL ANSWER IS "YES":

Due to its location, will the proposed project potentially impact local/state/federal historic architectural or archeological resources? \*

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

If yes, describe the process to obtain required approvals. If applicable, include this process in the Project Schedule. \*

IF LEASE / OR NARRATIVE TO USE EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE OR BOTH ARE SELECTED:

Will you provide lease agreements and/or a narrative to use existing infrastructure? \*

- ☒ Lease agreements  
☒ Narrative to use existing infrastructure

Select all that apply.

Lease Agreements Upload \*

Choose File

Select up to 10 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 10 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff

Provide narrative to use existing infrastructure for proposed project. \*

## Project Implementation

Will the Applicant offer the broadband services for a minimum five year period? \*

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

Provide documentation that Applicant will offer the broadband service for a minimum of five years. \*

Choose File

Upload a file. No files have been attached yet.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpl, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff

Include estimated subscription take rates for the proposed project area.

Provide the proposed pricing structure [by associated download and upload speeds] for all broadband services to be offered in association with this project. \*

Limit: 1500 characters

Demonstrate that speeds meet and exceed Montana law broadband speed requirements. If applicable, include a low-income pricing model. Include provisions that do not include data cap limitations for service and pricing.

Please also provide the proposed stand-alone pricing for unbundled internet-only service at 25 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload, for 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload [if applicable], and for 100 mps download and 100 mbps upload [if applicable]. \*

Limit: 1500 characters

Describe stand-alone pricing for all broadband speed levels applicable to the project, and demonstrate that speeds meet and exceed Montana law speed requirements.

Will any additional equipment be required — or any separately chargeable service installation elements apply — to activation or turn-up of individual customer locations? \*

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

If yes, describe any separately chargeable elements that may apply along with all associated charges, and identify as one-time or monthly. \*

Limit: 1500 characters

Describe what initiatives the Applicant will undertake to communicate its proposed marketing plan to its prospective broadband services customer base. \*

Limit: 1500 characters

The marketing plan should include activities to communicate the award of the proposed allocation project, the timing and availability of constructed broadband service, and Applicant plans on how to optimize broadband subscription rates once service becomes available

Number of Montana full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs currently employed by the provider in the project areas: \*

Number of Montana full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs to be employed by the provider for 5 years following completion of construction: \*

## Project Schedule

Provide the proposed project schedule which must reflect all key planning, procurement, construction, installation, testing, and service activation milestones. \*

Choose File

Select up to 74 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 74 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

See the [Application Guidance] for more information on the Project Schedule.

## Project Financials

Provide a financial plan for the proposed project, including a description of how the costs and anticipated revenue will result in the financial viability of the project over time. \*

Choose File

Select up to 74 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 74 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

See the [Application Guidance] for more information on the Financial Plan.

Describe why the proposed project would not be feasible without the award of the requested broadband allocation funds. \*

Limit: 1500 characters

Refer to the five year financials prepared above and demonstrate the difference in proposed project payback years with and without the requested allocation funding.



Is the Applicant leveraging all funding sources that may apply to the proposed project area? \*

☒ Yes

☐ No

If the proposed project leverages existing broadband networks, or the proposed project will be built in conjunction with other existing broadband infrastructure in the proposed project area to expand service areas to include unserved or underserved regions of the state, please identify and give the specific examples of the other preexisting project[s] and the associated leveraged funds associated with that project. Include any prior awards for CAF II, ACAM, USDA/RUS loan or ReConnect funds, ARRA, E-rate, or any other federal, state, or local rural broadband funding that may be geographically associated with the proposed project. Include any current or proposed lease agreements for existing implemented infrastructure that is being utilized for the proposed project area.

**If the proposed project leverages existing broadband networks, or will be built in conjunction with other broadband infrastructure projects to expand service areas to include unserved or underserved regions of the state, please give specific examples identifying the other project and the associated leveraged funds.**

Limit: 1500 characters

Include any prior awards for CAF II, ACAM, USDA/RUS loan or ReConnect funds, ARRA, E-rate, or any other federal, state, or local rural broadband funding. Include any current or proposed lease agreements for existing infrastructure that is being utilized for the proposed project area.

## Part VII - Project Sustainability Instructions

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### Provide technical expertise statement \*

Limit: 1500 characters

Provide a narrative statement detailing all the relevant technical expertise of the Applicant; and the Applicant's specific prior experience in providing broadband services in Montana (and in other states, if applicable.)

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## Part VIII - Applicant Affidavit

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### Applicant Affidavit Upload \*

Choose File

Select up to 5 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 5 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pptx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

The primary Applicant must provide a signed, dated, and witnessed affidavit or resolution that shows official Applicant support for and approval of the application as well as a commitment to provide the Applicant's matching funding.

IF MATCH FROM PARTNERS “YES” SELECTED:

### Partner Affidavit Upload \*

Choose File

Select up to 10 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 10 more files.

Acceptable file types: .csv, .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wpf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .epub, .key, .mobi, .mus, .musx, .ppt, .pttx, .sib, .xls, .xlsx, .zip

If the application includes a funding partner or partners, a separate affidavit or resolution is required for each public or private partner that has committed to provide funding for the project.

A sample affidavit/resolution is provided for the Applicant's use as specified in the [Application Guidance]. Please note that the Applicant may choose to reformat the sample document, but must ensure that all the statements appear in the signed, final version.

### BEFORE YOU SUBMIT

Please Note:

- The verification of receipt will only go to the email address associated with the person that registered for the Submittable account.
- Once you have completed your application, please click “Save” and “Submit”.

Save Draft

Submit

✓ Last Saved 5 minutes ago